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PATENT  
0649-0777P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Akira SAITO et al. Conf.: 4751  
Appl. No.: 09/856,845 Group: 1714  
Filed: October 29, 2001 Examiner: K. W. LEE  
For: RUBBER COMPOSITION

#10/pm  
03.04.03

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

February 14, 2003

Sir:

In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated January 17, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

REMARKS

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the invention into the following two groups:

Group I, claims 1-15, drawn to a rubber composition; and  
Group II, claims 16-23, drawn to a process of polymerizing rubber.

Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-15), without traverse.

Prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.